

FILTER PAPER IS SCRATCHED FROM THE POSSIBLE USE OF CAPILLARY TUBES

The specimens below appear scratched with a distinctive clotting pattern. Although other collection issues may result in blood spots with this appearance, this pattern most commonly results from the use of a capillary tube to collect the blood and apply to the blood spot card.

Using capillary tubes can scratch the filter paper, leave clots, or result in a specimen that appears discolored or contaminated.

CLSI guidelines for NBS specimen collection recommend the direct application of blood onto the filter card from the baby's heel when at all possible. If a capillary tube **MUST** be used, it is absolutely required that the capillary tube not contain EDTA or Citrate anticoagulant as these substances will interfere with the NBS tests.

